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Message Text

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63
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 INT-05 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /056 W
---------- 082376
R 091732Z JUL 76
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3816
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
ZEN RUEHOT/AMCONSUL WINNIPEG 0026

UNCLAS TORONTO 0944

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EINV, EMIN, CA
SUBJ: US ANTI-TRUST INDICTMENT CAUSES LITTLE REACTION; POTASH ASSOCIATION TO EXTEND PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

REF: (A) STATE 163112; (B) OTTAWA 2680 (NOTAL); (C) WINNIPEG 229; (D) TORONTO 933; (E) TORONTO 934

1. CANADIAN POTASH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WANSBROUGH TOLD CONSULATE GENERAL JULY 9 THAT SUBJECT OF US ANTITRUST INDICTMENTS NOT RAISED AT ALL DURING ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING AND TWO DIRECTOR'S MEETINGS JULY 8 IN TORONTO. HE COMMENTED THAT AS USUAL AT ASSOCIATION MEETING, ANTI-TRUST LAWYER FROM NEW YORK REPRESENTING US COMPANIES WAS PRESENT AND PROBABLY WOULD HAVE OBJECTED IF TOPIC RAISED.

2. ASIDE FROM NORTHERN MINER ARTICLE REPORTED TORONTO 933. ONLY PRESS COVERAGE ANTI-TRUST ACTION NOTED HERE WERE FACTUAL WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. WANSBROUGH COMMENTED THAT PRIVATE DISCUSSION AT MEETING REFLECTED COMPANIES' CONVICTION THAT THEY ARE INNOCENT AND ANY ILLEGAL ACTIONS RESULTED FROM COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS OF SASKATCHEWAN. HIS PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT COMPANIES, VIEW TIME AND EXPENSE OF COURT BATTLE, WILL PREFER TO PAY FINE AND LET ISSUED DIE.
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3. WANSBROUGH HAD EXPECTED HAVE HIS SERVICES TERMINATED AT JULY 8 MEETING AS ASSOCIATION PLANNING EVENTUAL SHIFT TO SASKATCHEWAN. WANSBROUGH BELIEVES THIS VERY SENSIBLE MOVE, VIEW WESTERN OBJECTIONS TO TORONTO " AND OTHER FOREIGN ELEMENTS," BUT ASSOCIATION HAS NOT YET WORKED OUT MECHANICS OF MOVE. WANSBROUGH BELIEVES THAT HAVING NEW PRESIDNT, PETER JACK, LOCATED IN SASKATCHEWAN, WILL ITSELF BE HELPFUL IN ACCOMMODATING SENSITIVITIES.

4. WANSBROUGH CONTINUED THAT AFTER DIRECTORS HAD AGREED REGARDING PARTICULAR EFFECTIVENESS AND SUCCESS OF ASSOCIATION'S PUBLIC RELATPTMS CAMPAIGN IN SASKATCHEWAN, HE STATED HIS OPINION THAT ASSOCIATION, WHILE CERTAINLY EFECTIVE IN SASKATCHEWAN, HAD NEGLECTED BROADER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS BY INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON. NEW PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS REPORTEDL IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH ABSERVATION AND ASSOCIATION WILL EMBARK ON PROGRAM OF GREATER CONTACT WITH OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON OFFICIALS. WANSBROUGH AND JACK WILL PROBABLY VISIT OTTAWA DURING COMING MONTH TO CALL UPON GOC OFFICIALS AND WILL PROBABLY SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR DURING SAME PERIOD. IT ALSO PROBABLE THAT WANSBROUGH INFORMAL TRIP TO WASHINGTON, ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR JUNE AS ADJUNCT OF PERSONAL VISIT TO AMERICAN MINING FRIENDS, WILL BECOME OFFICIAL ASSOCIATION VISIT IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER MADE BY BOTH WANSBROUGH AND JACK.
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